



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TAJIKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Disposing of Problems

USAID program helps local government to construct Tajikistan's first new landfill in two decades



Photo by: Urban Institute

The Mayor of Kulob watches the first load of garbage deposited in the city's new landfill.

Through the support of USAID's Participant Training and Local Governance Programs, the government of Kulob has been able to take control of its waste disposal problem, improving the standard of living and basic sanitation for the citizens of Kulob.

Until last year, the people of Kulob, Tajikistan had limited or no access to a landfill or waste disposal service. The old dumpsite was located 17 km outside of the city, inaccessible because the gravel road had been washed away. Consequently, residents were forced to dispose of waste in make-shift dumps in their own neighborhoods. Although this was recognized as a problem, there was no viable alternative.

In October 2004, with USAID assistance, the city of Kulob celebrated the opening of the first new landfill in Tajikistan in over 20 years. One year later, the government has effectively closed all of the randomly created dumpsites within and around Kulob city, greatly improving the appearance and sanitation of the city and the quality of life of its inhabitants.

USAID implemented this assistance over several years and through multiple implementing partners. In early 2004, USAID/CAR's Participant Training Program, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), funded participation of several government officials and engineers in several trainings on waste disposal management. Deputy Head Pirmadhon Zaripov, who participated in a study tour to Hungary, says about the tour, "Many good things that I saw in Hungary were vivid examples of the fact that most issues have simple and doable solutions."

With the knowledge gained in the trainings, the Hukumat (City Council) of Kulob developed an action plan to construct a landfill. It then teamed up with another USAID program, the Local Government Project, implemented by the Urban Institute, to receive technical assistance and \$10,000 worth of financial support. The Hukumat of Kulob also invested \$7,000 of city's funds into the project.

Kulob was able to finally clean up the garbage that had been piling up in the city for years. The newly built landfill is closer to the city than the old one and has paved roads, allowing it to be used even in winter. Additionally, USAID-sponsored capacity-building trainings enabled the Housing and Utility Department of Kulob City to manage the landfill as a sustainable service. The citizens and businesses of Kulob now pay a monthly fee for garbage collection. With proper use, the landfill should serve the city's needs for 8-10 years.